

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Mississippians begin GenX church in MD

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

Jonathan Lee grew up in Mississippi, living most of the time in Moss Point. Stan Graham grew up in Vicksburg, graduating from Warren Central High School. Together, they are the leadership team for Crossroads Church which meets in Meade Heights Elementary School on the grounds of Fort Meade in central Maryland.

"You're probably wondering, 'How come two Mississippi boys are doing this kind of thing in Maryland?'" Lee said, while standing outside the school on a bright, sunlit day.

The answer has to do with the unsearchable mystery of God's call and providence in human lives.

"In Sept. 1995 I knew I wanted to start a 'Generation X' church," Lee said. Generation X (baby busters or post-moderns, as they are sometimes known), are young adults born between 1965-1976. Today they are 23-34 years of age.

So driven was Lee toward fulfilling this mission, that he squeezed a three-year master of divinity degree program at New Orleans Seminary into about two years.

Graham ended up in Maryland after college, working for the Army. Because of a passion for music, he was soon leading music in one of Maryland's fastest growing Baptist churches.

"Some six or seven years later, I got a phone call from Jonathan, who I didn't know from Adam at that point," Graham said.

Lee shared his vision for a new church geared to reaching Generation X. The pair began talking, dreaming, and planning.

"We initially started with 15 folks who signed covenants to be part of our core group. From that point, we grew to about 25-30 people. Now we see on a regular basis anywhere between 80-100 people — over 100 people a few times," Lee said.

The average worshiper at Crossroads Church is 27 years of age. The majority of them work in the intelligence community associated with Fort Meade. They are well educated, but also unchurched.

"The vast majority of folks who come to Crossroads has never been at a church in their lives," Graham points out. As a result, worship at Crossroads Church is a bit different.

"We try to make them comfortable with something that looks more like a coffee house than a church," Graham said. "The music is probably going to be acoustic rock, folk style music, so it is a very laid back atmosphere."

At the 1998 Mississippi Baptist Convention, Mississippi Baptists signed a three-year partnership mission agreement with Maryland/Delaware Baptists. Crossroads Church is one of hundreds of

mission projects with which Mississippi Baptists could partner. There are several areas of need.

Lee and Graham have received support for their work from the North American Mission Board, the Maryland/Delaware convention, and a number of other churches. However, some of that support will soon come to an end.

Financial needs are great. Renting space from the elementary school runs \$2000 a month, for three hours of use once a week. The church has two full-time staffers to support, plus other costs. Church members are in debt from college, are not in their high earning years yet, and are not accustomed to the idea of giving to support a church.

"For one of these folks to write a \$20 check once a month is just a major deal for them," Graham points out.

The work is also labor intensive. Mission teams have come in the past and helped with day camps and other ministry activities. "We try to do a lot of community-based activities just to get out and meet people, and it takes a lot of people to pull those kinds of things off," Graham said.

They are also looking for prayer partners. Crossroads Church has an e-mail prayer network that circulates prayer requests every other week or so. Lee is looking for people who are "committed on a daily or weekly basis to praying for Stan and me and our young families, for the people with whom we are connected, and for the overall success of Crossroads Church," Lee said.

For more information on Crossroads Church, contact Lee or Graham by e-mail at info@cafecrossroads.com.

For more information about the Maryland/Delaware partnership with Mississippi Baptists, contact the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's partnership missions department at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 292-3398, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



GEN X PASTORS — Jonathan Lee, left, and Stan Graham, right, stand in front of Meade Heights Elementary School on the grounds of Fort Meade, Maryland, where Crossroads Community Church holds weekly services. (Photo by Carl M. White)

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Wedgwood reclaims sanctuary for worship

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — The bloodstained carpet and pews had been removed. Most of the dozens of bullet holes had been covered with flowers. Broken windows had been replaced. The only outward signs of the Sept. 15 tragedy: two choir robes lying on empty chairs in the choir loft, concrete floors, thousands of e-mail messages of prayer and sympathy posted on the foyer walls, and a newspaper and television camera in the sanctuary.

Hundreds of people came. The murderous acts of a crazed gunman could not stop them. The emotional and physical exhaustion of the previous three days could not stop them. They were the church determined by

the grace and power of God to gather for worship and fellowship in his house and not let evil win even the smallest battle.

Without forgetting those who died at the hands of Larry Ashbrook, Wedgwood Baptist Church worshiped God in his house just four days after the shooting that claimed eight lives and left seven wounded.

"The world doesn't have a clue how we are withstanding this tragedy," Wedgwood senior pastor Al Meredith said. "Wedgwood is a wonderful church. But we are just ordinary people with an extraordinary God."

Meredith preached from Romans 8:28 which says: "And we know that all things work

together for the good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose."

Laura MacDonald had been at the Wednesday night youth rally when the shootings took place and had at first been afraid to return to the sanctuary so soon. But she came.

"I felt God's presence. This is God's house. It's not an evil house. It's his house. He's reclaimed it," MacDonald said.

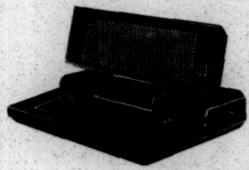
Seven people professed Christ as Lord and Savior during the invitation in the two services and others came for prayer or to join the church, including Bob and Debbie Beckel, parents of shooting victim Kristi Beckel. During the second service, people laid hands on and prayed

for the family of shooting victim Cassandra Griffin.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Ken Hemphill was on hand to bring the opening prayer, asking God to "use these martyrs to save a generation of people."

The link between the school and the church is evident in the list of dead and injured: of the dead, Sydney Browning, a 1991 alumnus, Shawn Brown, a current student, and Susan Kimberly Jones, a first-year student; and of the wounded, Kevin Galey, a Ph.D. student, and Jeff Laster, a diploma student. Several hundred Wedgwood members are students, alumni, staff or faculty at the nearby seminary.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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The cure for our national sickness

Most of us who grew up attending church can remember the pastor or revival preacher who warned that one day those of us who live in America might be called upon to pay for our faith with our lives, much as the martyrs of the last two millennia.

In the America of yesteryear, such a thought seemed utterly preposterous. In the America of 1999, it's becoming alarmingly commonplace.

Not too long ago, students in Kentucky were shot and killed as they knelt in their school's hallway to start their day with prayer.

Less than a year ago, Columbine High School students Rachel Scott and Cassie Bernall were forced to choose between God and their lives. They chose God and gave up their lives.

A little over a week ago, seven people died at Wedgwood Church — a Southern Baptist church — in Ft. Worth, Texas, while celebrating the See You At the Pole event held earlier in the day.

They weren't killed by jack-booted storm troopers under the control of an atheistic dictator or by fanatic adherents of some other religious system, but they died for their faith nonetheless.

This national sickness is not the result of a lack of gun control or inadequate security precautions. There will never be a time when guns don't exist in this country, and there will never be enough police and private security officers to guarantee safety. Don't mistake symptoms of the sickness for the sickness itself.

No, our sickness is caused by one thing: an absence of God and his values in our national life. What other conclusion can be drawn about a country where:

- ♦ the legalized murder of infants can be euphemistically regarded as nothing more than "a form of late-term abortion."
- ♦ graduation prayers and nativity scenes are considered to be establishment of state religion.
- ♦ euthanasia is touted as a preferable alter-

native to the inconvenience of caring for the seriously ill, the elderly, and the handicapped.

♦ alcohol and gambling destroy individuals and families in the name of government "revenue."

♦ the glorification of virtually every sexual perversion known to man has resulted in the objectifying of innocent women and children.

♦ night after night of televised violence desensitizes people to crimes against the most vulnerable members of our society.

Given the almost infinite list of ways we have chosen to move as far away as we can from God and his values, it should come as no surprise that those among us who stand for what is right will be attacked and, in some cases, made to sacrifice their lives for their faith.

Who would have thought this could happen in America?

It's that way with Satan. Once he gets a foothold, he doesn't give it up very easily — and he has much more than a foothold on this country. In fact, it's approaching a stranglehold.

We need a turnaround, and we need it fast. Be assured, however, that Satan will resist, and he'll hit us where it hurts the most.

Where can he hurt us the most? It should be obvious to anyone that young



people are being made to pay a high price for their faith.

Could it be Satan understands that our young people are intent on living their faith and praying that their generation will return to God and his values? Could it be that God is honoring the prayers of these young people?

Is there anything Satan wouldn't do to disrupt such a movement? The answer is becoming more apparent every day.

We must stand with them and against Satan as these young people reclaim their generation for Christ. If we do, we might just find the cure for our national sickness.

GUEST OPINION:

The Boy Scouts under assault



By R. Albert Mohler Jr., president
The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary,
Louisville, Kentucky

through the heart of the Boy Scout program.

America's parents, possessing far more common sense and moral judgment than the New Jersey court, are not about to put their young sons under the leadership of known homosexuals. Scouting builds both individual character and team spirit in boys, and this requires trust between the boys, their parents, and their scout leaders. Putting homosexuality into the mix is both explosive and deadly.

Difficult as it is to understand, the court ruled the Boy Scouts deserve no more legal protection than a restaurant. If this decision stands, there is no way the Scouts can deny membership to girls,

because discrimination on the basis of sex is already outlawed for public accommodations in all 50 states. The decision also denies the Scouts the right to deny leadership to persons of any sexual "orientation," or even to members of the National Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA).

If the decision stands, scouting will either die or be totally transformed. The court's legal logic is a feat of irrationality. Acknowledging that Boy Scouts are required to pledge an oath and law that include a promise "to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight" and to remain morally "clean," the chief justice stated that "The words

'morally straight' and 'clean' do not, on their face, express anything about sexuality."

Does anyone really believe "morally straight" expresses nothing about sexuality? In a concurring opinion, Justice Alan B. Handler argued that any view of homosexuality as immoral is "discredited," "discordant with current law and public policy," and "cannot serve to define contemporary social mores and morality."

Here we see the work of the moral revolutionaries who would turn our moral code upside down. Any sexual behavior or "lifestyle" must be not only accommodated but also protected and respected by society. Any institution or organization, no matter how venerable or wholesome, must give way to the sexual revolutionaries or be abolished. No society can long survive this moral madness.

We must hope for the U.S. Supreme Court to render a timely and definitive reversal of this devastating decision. If not, America's parents will have to do their duty, remove their children, and cherish only the memory of a once great organization.

Relief efforts intensify in wake of Floyd

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — Southern Baptist disaster relief units continued to respond Sept. 20 to flooding in the wake of Hurricane Floyd, a natural disaster that has continued to worsen since the storm itself dissipated over Canada days earlier.

"Rivers continue to rise all over the eastern half of North Carolina and are not expected to crest until later this week," said Richard Brunson, North Carolina Baptist Men director and state disaster relief coordinator. "Thousands of people remain in shelters. There are a number of areas where we cannot gain access. More roads are being closed by the hour because of flooding."

The first units in place have been feeding units, which prepare meals in central locations for delivery by the American Red Cross to affected areas. More than 40,000 meals had been prepared as of the evening of Sept. 18 by the 14 feeding

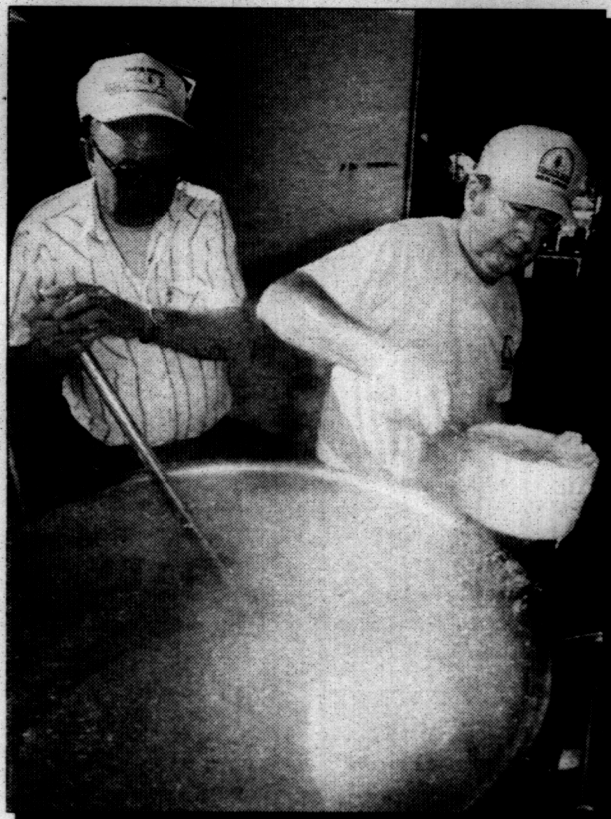
sites in four states staffed by Southern Baptists. Previously five Georgia feeding units assisted with feeding evacuees before the storm hit.

Cleanup and recovery units have begun clearing debris in Hoary County, S.C., and "mud-out" units are on standby but not expected to respond until early next week, according to South Carolina disaster relief director Cliff Satterwhite. Other states had yet to move beyond the immediate need for food preparation.

Feeding units began operating Sept. 17 and were still being deployed in new locations as of Sept. 20.

In South Carolina, units were operating at First Church of Murrells Inlet and First Church of Loris.

North Carolina units are based at First Church Activities Center in Wilmington; First Church of New Bern; First Church of Rocky Mount; and Inglewood Church in Lumberton. Out-of-state units also operating in North Carolina include a Kentucky unit at First Church of Wilson, a Tennessee unit at First Church of Kingston, a Missouri unit at Memorial Church in Greenville, and a Georgia unit at Tarboro High School in Tarboro. A shower unit and water purification unit operated by the North American Mission Board and a Georgia Baptist Convention water purification unit also were being deployed to North Carolina.



COOKING FOR THE CROWD — R.D. Fortenberry (left) of First Church, Cherryville, N.C., and Don Phillips of Oatsville Church work together in preparing chicken and dumplings for distribution to victims of the flooding from hurricane Floyd. The men were part of the Southern Baptist disaster relief operation set up at First Church Activity Center in Wilmington, N.C. (BP Photo by Gibbs Frazier)

A Virginia unit was activated Sept. 18 and is serving at Franklin High School in Franklin, Va.

In New Jersey,



BRINGING RELIEF — Ernie Crawford (left) of Catawba Church and Rick Eldridge of Mount Holly, N.C., carry meals to be loaded into a Red Cross Emergency Relief Vehicle (ERV) for distribution to those affected by the flood in Wilmington, N.C. The men were part of the Southern Baptist disaster relief operation set up at the First Baptist Church Activities Center in Wilmington, N.C. (BP Photo by Gibbs Frazier)

the Ohio feeding unit is serving at the Emergency Management Command post in Somerville; an Illinois feeding unit is based at Wayne Valley High School in Wayne; and the Northeast Consortium feeding unit was expected to be assigned a site Sept. 20, reported Mickey Caison, national Southern Baptist disaster relief coordinator and an adult volunteer mobilization associate with the North American Mission Board.

Contributions to help defray the costs of the relief effort may be sent to Southern Baptist

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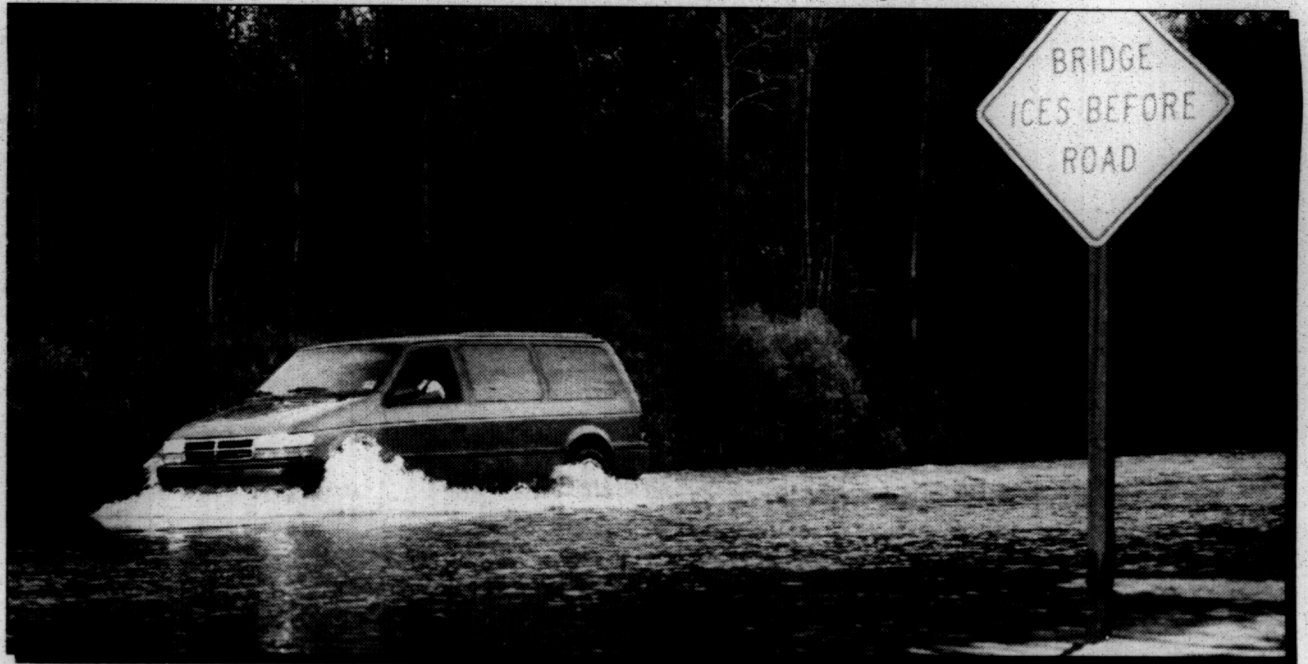
Disaster Relief, North American Mission Board, 4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, Ga. 30022. Further information also is available through the www.namb.net/dr web site and by calling 1-800-462-8657.

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Looking back

10 years ago

Paul Powell, pastor of Green Acres Church, Tyler, Tex., reversed himself and accepted the election as president of the Annuity Board. Powell was first offered the position in July and rejected it. Finding no peace in that decision, he approached the search committee for reconsideration.

20 years ago

Attendance records for Sunday School and Church Training were set at Mount Zion Church, in the New Hope community east of Columbus. The high attendance emphasis was the beginning of a revival that saw 77 professions of faith and many other decisions. Ray Hill is pastor.

50 years ago

Murphy Creek Church, Winston County, has built a new youth building. The 30- by 40-foot building was built by men of the church and paid for by 13 acres of cotton the men planted, cultivated, and picked. It is connected to the main church building by a covered walkway.

LifeWay officials affirm Y2K readiness

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention is making final preparations for total Y2K compliance with its information systems-related equipment and software.

Compliance was defined as the ability to accept, display, and report dates using correct century and year; cross into the year 2000 without automation failure; prevent premature expiration of security, licenses or files due to year 2000 crossover; treat the Year 2000 as a Leap Year; and interface with other year 2000-compliant software and data.

"We anticipate a smooth transition into the year 2000," said Gerald Shields, director of LifeWay's information systems department. "Persons who use our automated telephone ordering service and who order through our Internet site (www.lifeway.com) should experience only a brief interruption in service between late Dec. 31 and early Jan. 1 while we intentionally power down all of our systems."

PLOWING THROUGH — U.S. Highway 74 west of Wilmington was just one of hundreds of roads made nearly impassable by Hurricane Floyd-induced flooding in North Carolina and points north. The highway was bordered on both sides at this point by the Green Swamp. While still somewhat passable Sept. 16 — particularly eastbound lanes — the waters continued to rise over the next few days. (BP Photo by Gibbs Frazier)



THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

Greene Co. adults surround youth with prayer

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

In the Greene County county seat of Leakesville, parents, teachers, and school administrators formed a human prayer circle around students on the evening before the See You at the Pole (SYATP) emphasis.

It was the conclusion of simultaneous rallies for adults and students that reached across denominational and racial lines, according to Mack Strange, pastor of First Church, Leakesville.

"It was significant to me. Here was the heart of a community of

believers — Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians, charismatics, blacks, whites — in a common bond of prayer over our young people, wanting to stand by them at this time," Strange said.

The idea for holding rallies for both adults and youth grew from a meeting of the church's prayer team, according to Strange.

"We were just talking, and the idea came up. We were discussing how to get parents more involved in the lives of their kids," Strange said.

L. C. Drawdy, associate pastor and minister of students at First Church, Leakesville, was

already planning a SYATP rally on Tuesday evening before the Wednesday morning event. Some of the prayer team members noted that many adults expressed an interest in attending.

Thus, an adult rally was planned at the city's middle school gymnasium while the students met in First Church's activities building. Since the middle school is across the street from the church, the idea of bringing both groups together to end the evening seemed natural.

The theme for the adult rally was "No Student Stands Alone," Strange said. School administrators, teachers, and parents from the elementary school, middle school, and high school participated.

"The message to our young people was that we are not exempt from the tragedies that have happened around the country in schools. Therefore, we need to pray," Drawdy said.

After the students finished praying in school groups, the adults came over and made a circle around the young people.

Drawdy challenged the adults to look each student in the eyes before they prayed. Leading in prayer were Mitchell Osborne, pastor of Pine Level Church, Leakesville; Mike

Chatham, pastor of Cedar Grove Church, Leakesville; and Harold Moore, pastor of Leakesville United Methodist Church.

Drawdy said one of his goals for the simultaneous rallies was to secure pledges from adults to prayer regularly for the students and for the schools.

"I hoped to have around 20 parents stand up at that meeting and commit to praying for the students during the week. Close to 90 parents signed a commitment form saying they would pray regularly for our children and schools," he said.

The rallies concluded with a count of three and the shout, "See you at the pole!"

Drawdy said that in 1998, less than 25 students participated in SYATP at Greene County High School, and he was unsure if the event was even observed at the middle school. This year, 110 high school students and over 200 middle school students gathered to pray.

The 2000 SYATP event is scheduled for Sept. 20. For more information on SYATP, contact Don Lum in the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's evangelism department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3280, or toll free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. E-mail: dlum@mbcb.org.



PRAYING AT THE POLE — Young people surround the flag pole at Greene County Middle School in Leakesville in observance of See You at the Pole. (BP special photo)

See You at the Pole draws 13,128 participants

The statistics reported below are from schools and communities that reported See You at the Pole (SYATP) attendance figures to Don Lum, youth consultant with the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

SYATP began in September of 1990, when over 45,000 teens in

four states gathered at school flag poles to pray. Last year, SYATP involved over 3 million students in all 50 states and 20 countries.

SYATP 2000 is planned for Sept. 20. For information contact Lum at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 292-3280, or toll-free outside of Jackson (800) 748-1651. E-mail at dlum@mbcb.org.

Booneville High/Middle	63	Lawrence Co. High	130	Presbyterian Christian	150
Brandon High	100	Leake Academy	85	Puckett Attendance Ctr	89
Brandon Middle	130	Lee Middle	65	Raymond High	250
Byram Middle	40	Madison Central	45	Rebel Academy	180
Caledonia Middle/High	300	McComb High	85	Raleigh High	100
Canton Academy	76	McLaurin	100	Richland High	150
Central Hinds Academy	70	Miss Delta Comm. College	21	Richland Middle	35
Central Holmes Academy	29	Monticello Jr. High	75	Rosa Scott	35
Cleveland High/Margaret Green	64	Moorville High	178	Salem High	440
Clinton High	200	Morton Attendance Center	400	Saltillo High	175
Clinton Jr. High	100	MUW Math & Science	125	Simpson Central K-8	125
Columbia Academy	240	Myrtle School	103	South Pike High	50
Columbus High	150	Nanih Waiya High	90	Starkville Academy	195
Cruger Tchula Academy	63	New Hope High	225	Starkville High	75
Daniel High	85	New Hope Middle	200	Starkville Middle	125
Denman Jr. High, McComb	125	Newton Co. Academy	125	Sumner Hill	60
East Union	162	Newton High	40	Sumrall High	225
Ethel High	150	Newton Middle	35	Terry High	80
Florence High	175	North Pike High	150	Tylertown High	58
Florence Middle	250	Northwest High	150	Tylertown, City of	19
Franklin Co. High	125	Northwest Jr.	100	Vardaman	32
George High	45	Oak Grove High	375	Victory Christian Academy	77
Grenada High	150	Oak Grove Jr.	175	Victory Christian	75
Grenada Middle	170	Olive Branch High	500	Washington School	75
Greene Co. High	110	Olive Branch Jr. High	500	Water Valley High/Jr.	101
Greene Co. Jr. High	206	Oxford Middle	60	West Marion	132
Guntown Middle, Saltillo	456	Park Lane Academy	150	West Union	100
Hattiesburg High	80	Pearl High	200	Wilkinson Christian	25
Heritage Academy	130	Petal High	200	Wingfield High	150
Hillcrest Elementary	452	Petal Jr.	100	Winona High	50
Hillcrest Christian	100	Poplarville High	75	Woodland Hills Academy	50
Ingomar	125	Poplarville Middle	60		
Kirk Academy	140	PRC	37	TOTAL	13,128

Midwestern trustees dismiss Coppenger

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (from BP & ABP reports) — Trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary have fired President Mark Coppenger, saying misdirected anger has diminished his ability to lead the Southern Baptist school in Kansas City, Mo.

Michael Whitehead, the seminary's vice president for business affairs, has been named acting president.

Trustees voted Sept. 14 by secret ballot to immediately dismiss Coppenger, who has led the seminary four years. The vote came in a brief open session after about nine hours of executive sessions during a two-day trustee meeting called for the purpose of discussing leadership issues involving the 51-year-old president.

Gary Peek, a trustee from Four Mile Creek Church, Pascagoula, Miss., made the motion to dismiss Coppenger. Trustee chairman Carl Weiser said the motion passed but declined to publicly disclose the vote count. Weiser later told reporters the vote was reported to trustees in executive session.

"A majority of the board concluded that the expression of anger admitted to

by Dr. Coppenger had irreparably damaged his ability to lead the seminary," Weiser read from a prepared statement after the meeting.

Coppenger had confessed to "misappropriation of anger" before the board's executive committee in July and agreed to specific recommendations aimed at "repentance and restoration" toward individuals who have been stung by his temper.

A report on that session, the result of a two-month investigation by trustee leaders, was scheduled to be part of the agenda at the trustees' next scheduled full board meeting in October. The special meeting was called for by 15 trustees who wanted to discuss questions surrounding the leadership of the president.

Coppenger, the 41-year-old seminary's third president, said through a spokesperson that he had no comment on the firing.

However, Coppenger told the Kansas City Star, in a Sept. 15 story, after the meeting that "God is in control, and I am looking forward to the next thing. I wish the best for Midwestern, and I will be cheering from the sidelines."

Weiser, pastor of Hyland Heights Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va., admonished reporters that individual trustees were forbidden to discuss the action.

He also said it is time for the seminary to move on. "We feel like that we need to begin to move forward and that we are committed as a whole as a board to move forward."

Despite the vote to fire Coppenger, the trustee statement praised him as a creative and dedicated president who had assembled a world-class faculty and modeled a passion for spiritual renewal. "We love Mark Coppenger and his family dearly," Weiser read from the prepared statement.

While the executive committee investigation reportedly surfaced other questions about spending and enrollment, it was Coppenger's temper that led trustees to conclude he was no longer an effective leader, according to the trustee statement.

Weiser said trustees would discuss a severance package for Coppenger at the board's October meeting. He also said the president and his family could remain in their seminary-owned home on campus as long as needed.

MBC cards to be mailed October 11

Messenger cards to the 1999 Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC), slated for October 26-27 at First Church, Jackson, will be mailed directly to churches again this year starting the week of October 11. Each church will receive the number of cards according to Article III of the Constitution of the Mississippi Baptist Convention:

Section 2. Each church in friendly cooperation with the Mississippi Baptist Convention and having contributed to world missions through the Cooperative Program during the preceding convention year shall be entitled to two messengers for the first one hundred members of its membership or fraction thereof.

Section 3. One additional messenger from each church shall be allowed for each additional one hundred members, or major fraction thereof, but no church shall be entitled to more than ten messengers.

Membership information is taken from the 1998 associational records. For more information, contact the office of the executive director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3201 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

THANK YOU PASTOR

The position and profession of pastor is a "calling." It is a high calling, a holy calling, and it is a Heavenly calling. There may be people who just decide they will go in the ministry, get prepared academically, and then search for a place to serve. No, in a marvelous and unique way God calls, gifts, and undergirds his shepherds.

One of the things that makes the pastorate so demanding is that there are so many people in the flock, and each one of them has their own individual, personalized view and expectations of what the pastor is supposed to be and do.

The pastor is put into a position of wanting to meet the needs of everyone and generally wants to live up to those expectations imposed by everyone else. Add to that, the pastor has his own expectations of what he wants to do and needs to do as he follows the Lord.

Praying about, studying for, preparing, and delivering several messages a week is work. It is exciting work, important work, and it is hard work. Preparing to preach is not just a matter of just being a glib talker. It requires preparation beyond what any member of the congregation would ever know.

Add to that, the pastor is the overseer of the church, the administrative head, who is involved in planning, programming, meeting, and analyzing the work of ministry in the local church. Then, add still to the pastor's responsibilities the pastoral ministry that involves visiting, caring for the sick, marrying, burying, counseling, and walking with the Lord.

The pastor appears to be a man with little to do and much freedom to set his own schedule. That is true as long as it fits everybody else's schedule first.

He neglects himself in order to take care of the needs of oth-



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

ers. He will neglect his own family in the effort to take care of his church family and those connected to the extended family of faith. He lives "stretched-out." To take care of any personal needs can subject him to criticism of neglecting the needs in the congregation.

He is expected to know almost everything without being told anything. If, by chance, he does not make every decision in a way that is palatable for everyone in the congregation, then it is obvious that he is not a good leader. If he expresses too much mercy, he is accused of not having a backbone. If he expresses wrath, it is clear that he is not being "Christ-like." Someone suggested that being a pastor is like trying to straddle a mud puddle with a wheelbarrow.

Within the Mississippi Baptist Convention there are some great pastors. They are good preachers, excellent leaders, compassionate servants, and true men of God.

October is Pastor Appreciation month and I want to encourage you to find some way to express appreciation to your pastor.

I have had the delight of seeing many churches do special, meaningful, and even unusual things to say, "Thank you pastor."

Some churches have just declared a special day to honor him and his family, and they fill the day with kindnesses of testimonies of thanks. One church went so far as to take the entire month of October and each day

some family in the church adopted the pastor and his family and did some gracious thing in their behalf.

Some churches have taken a special offering and given special gifts, provided vacation trips, bought sets of commentaries, given plaques, and provided gift certificates to outfit the family. Some have even given cars.

I know of several churches who have made arrangements for someone to come and fill the pulpit and presented the pastor and his wife a "get-away-weekend" and told them, "do not come to church — get gone!"

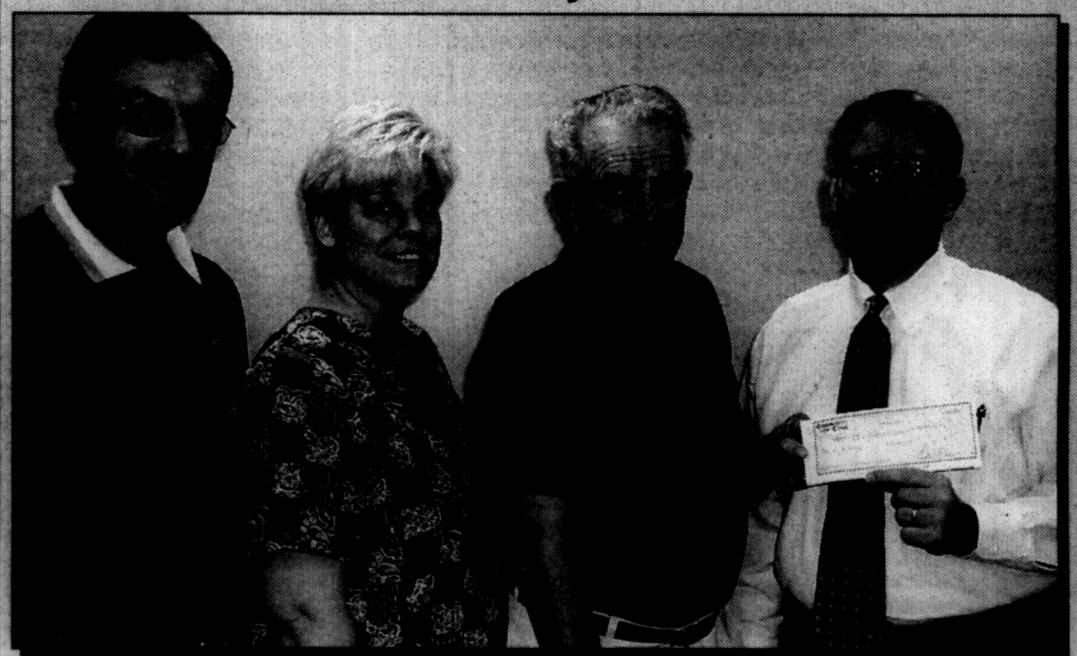
Your pastor may not be perfect, but he is your pastor. He may not have all the gifts that someone else possesses, but he deserves the gift of your love. With nothing more than a small note and a thoughtful act of kindness, you may revitalize his spirits in ways that you would never dream possible.

I am so thankful for our pastors. I have seen them from every vantage point. I am the son of a Baptist pastor, the brother of Baptist pastors, the father of a Baptist pastor, and have had the privilege of being a pastor for 35 years.

I know the pastors in our state, from border to border, from Corinth to the Coast, from Southaven to Bay St. Louis — they are good men who love the Lord, care for their people, and share the message of Jesus faithfully.

Whether as a church body, or just as an individual, find a way during October to open your heart and say, "Thank you, pastor!"

Tournament benefits annuitants



Robin Nichols (right), Mississippi representative for the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, accepts a \$10,688 check representing the proceeds of the third annual Retired Ministers Golf Tournament to benefit the Annuity Board's Adopt-An-Annuitant program. Andy Holder (second from right), tournament coordinator, presents the check along with Richard Winkler (left) and his wife Michelle. The Winklers will assume the role of tournament coordinators for next year's event at Bay Pointe golf course in Brandon on Sept. 14-15, 2000. Holder and the Winklers are members of Raymond Road Church, Jackson. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

JUST FOR THE RECORD



First Church, Coldwater, recently held a recognition service for its GAs. Fifteen GAs completed the Adventure levels with leaders Twyla Loftis and Karen Bell.

Society Hill Church, Oakvale, will host a fish fry (\$5 per plate) on Sept. 25 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m./4 p.m.-7 p.m. The funds will be used for the completion of its new educational and fellowship building.

Joy in the Journey, women's conference, will be held at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, on Oct. 2. Kay DeKalb Smith of Nashville, Tenn., will be the speaker, along with special seminars on a variety of topics created especially for women. For registration information, call the church at (601) 956-5000.

Area showing of World Wide Pictures' "A Vow to Cherish" will be held at Hillcrest Church, Jackson, Sept. 26 at 5 p.m. World Wide Pictures is the motion picture ministry of the Billy Graham Evangelist Association. For more information, call (601) 372-0132.



Calvary Church, Greenwood, note burning

Calvary Church, Greenwood, held a note burn-

ing service on Aug. 29. The church relocated to new facilities in February 1995. The loan was retired in three years and ten months. Pictured (from left) are Billy Gardner, steering committee chairman; James Roberts, treasurer; Billy Cox, "Challenge to Build" chairman; and Jeff Floyd, pastor.

REVIVAL DATES

Lake Como, Bay Springs: Oct. 3-6; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Steve Thompson, Florida, evangelist; Harvey L. Lilly, pastor.

Macedonia, Meridian: Sept. 26-29; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Malcolm Lewis, Meridian, evangelist; Jason C. Gross, pastor.

Tylertown, Tylertown: Oct. 3-6; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Danny Hood, Florida, evangelist; Billy Bowie, Gulfport, music; David L. Sellers, pastor.

Beulah, Lexington: Sept. 27-30; 7 p.m.; Wayne Hudson, Kosciusko, evangelist; Frank Stiedle, Canton, music; Douglas L. Lawson, pastor.

East Columbia, Columbia: Sept. 26-29; Sunday, Sunday School at 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m.; James Messer Sr., Alabama, evangelist; Steve Walker, Pinola, music; O. J. Seals, pastor.

Derma, Derma: Oct. 3-7; Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; David Hamilton, evangelist; Randy Wood, music; Chris Aldridge, pastor.

Crooked Creek, Silver Creek: Oct. 3-8; Sunday, 10 a.m. followed by a covered dish lunch in the fellowship hall; Mon.-Fri., 6 p.m., covered dish meal, and worship, 7 p.m.; Mark Dunn, Alabama, evangelist; Ken Hedgepeth, Hattiesburg, music.

Woodville, Woodville: Oct. 15-17; youth revival; Fri., after game; Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; London Dowden, Metairie, La., evangelist; Ben Perkins, Monroe, La., music; Gary Bunch, pastor.

WMU to host conference

The Women of Mississippi On Mission Retreat will be held October 22-23, 1999 at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. The theme will be "Transformed — Take the Stand" with worship leader Liz McGraw, Woodville, and D.P. Smith, missionary to West Africa. The cost is \$50, which includes lodging and three meals.

Participants may call Gulfshore Baptist Assembly and register by phone using their Master Card or Visa. Checks should be made out to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly and mailed to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571.

For more information, contact Kathy Burns, WMU Dept., at (800) 748-1651 or (601) 292-3324.



GAs of Morgan Chapel, Sturgis

Morgan Chapel, Sturgis, held its GA Recognition Service on Aug. 28. Pictured (from left, front row) are Bailey McMinn, Keali Fulgham, Lankin Vickers, and Tia Vickers; (second row) Kyla Morgan, Neshay Vickers, and Katie Lewis; (third row) Cia Kinnard, Sommer Reeves, Hailey Reeves, Whitney Morgan, and Casey Risher; (back row) Shelia Morgan, Amy Morgan, Mae Morgan, Dawn Kinnard, Ellen Shaw, Jamie Lewis, and Tracey Risher.



Youth from Walnut Grove Church, Walnut Grove, recently took part in Centrifuge at North Greenville College, Tigerville, S.C. Those attending included (from left) Eric Jones, Shelley Jones, Ashley Ogletree, Adam Wyatt, Justin Ogletree, Daniel Evans, and Daniel Jones. Not pictured, Chip and Cindy Jones, youth counselors.



PASTORS' APPRECIATION DAY

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1999



• Hosted by Dr. Chuck Kelley,
President of NOBTS

• Chapel guest speaker will be
Dr. Paige Patterson, President of the
Southern Baptist Convention



Chapel service starts at 10 a.m.

Complimentary luncheon for Pastors and Staff afterwards at 11:30 a.m.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



GAs of Grace Church, Philadelphia, held their recognition service on Aug. 29. Pictured (from left) are Michelle Holley, Emily Tillman, Jesse Files, and Meredith Baker; (second row) Faith Boyette, Lindsey Tillman, Katie Bradley, and Amanda Williamson; (third row) Chasity Beckham, Candace Killens, and Brittney Hodges. The leaders are Martha Duvall and Dawn McCrory. Bob Storie from the Seaman's Center and Truckers Center on the Gulf Coast was guest speaker.

tured, (first row, from left) are Brandon Runyan; Karen Middleton, leader; Jessa Martin; Ira-Rain Levison; Fay Levison, leader; Greg Levison; Auxtin Levison; and Pam Moore, leader; (second row) Georgia Bowlin and John Ryan.

GAs pictured (first row) are Lauren Brouillette; Jessica Jackson; Kelly Ryan; Kristina Bates; Katilyn Savage; and Katie McGee; (second row) Deborah Bell, leader; Corey Bates; Stephanie Smith; Crystal Ryan; Amber Morgan; Ashlee Mullins; and Kathy Mullins, leader.

RAs pictured (first row) are Michael Middleton; Adam Williams; and Bradley Middleton; (second row) Cherry Head, leader; Landon Beasley; Ben Head; Benton Bell; Clay Bowlin, Scott Mullins; and Lesa Williams, leader.

Acteens pictured (first row) are Maggie Morgan, 8th grade ring; Janie Jackson, leader; Mandy Elkins and Amanda Jackson, 8th grade ring; Beth Ryan and Heather Morgan, 10th grade journal.

Youth on Mission pictured (first row) are Kathy Ryan; Holly Ferguson, leader; Heather Morgan; Amanda Jackson; Karla Brouillette; Beth Ryan; Heather Bowlin, leader; (second row) Brent Holly; Wesley Page; Josh Holly; Blake Williams; Earl Bell; and Justin Morgan. Troy Bankston is pastor.



Mission Friends of Strong Hope Church, Wesson



GAs of Strong Hope Church, Wesson



RAs of Strong Hope Church, Wesson



Acteens of Strong Hope Church, Wesson



Youth on Mission of Strong Hope Church, Wesson

Strong Hope Church, Wesson, held its annual mis-

sions recognition service on Aug. 22. Missions Friends pic-

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Mississippi College Office of Continuing Education will offer a course entitled Basic Homicide Investigation, 6-8 p.m.; Oct. 5, 12, 26, and Nov. 2. Pre-registration is required. For information, call Ken Gilliam at (601) 925-3263.

Mississippi College will present several members of its faculty in recital on Sept. 28 at 7:30 p.m. in Aven Hall. Performers include Richard Joiner, Patricia Walston, Jeff McLelland, Carol Joy Sparkman, Angela Willoughby, Nell Adams, James Meaders, Dana Rice, and Edward Dacus.

The Music Department of



WINTER BIBLE STUDY PREVIEW CLINIC

*Live for the Future Now:
A Study of 1 & 2 Thessalonians*



D. Michael Martin



Jonathan Hewett

DATE: September 28, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Fellowship Hall West

TIME: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

TEACHERS: **D. Michael Martin**, professor of New Testament interpretation, associate academic dean at Golden Gate Seminary, and author of *Live for the Future Now: A Study of 1 & 2 Thessalonians*
Jonathan Hewett, youth evangelist from Celina, Texas, and author of *Last Word*, the study of 1 & 2 Thessalonians for youth

LUNCH: Complimentary by MBCB Sunday School Department

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For more information, contact Larry Salter or Mark Lott, at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Sunday School Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205; phone (800) 748-1651 or (601) 292-3292; e-mail lsalter@mbcb.org or mlott@mbcb.org.

NAMES IN THE NEWS



First Church, Terry, recently ordained Ralph Breazeale, Chuck Higdon, and Barry Ivers as deacons. Pictured (from left) are John Pace Jr., pastor; Higdon; Ivers; and Breazeale.

L. Edward Gandy, minister, dies

L. Edward Gandy, 66, a minister, died of cancer Sept. 8 in Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson. He was a member of Crossgates Church in Brandon. Services were held Sept. 9 at Crossgates Church with burial in Floral Hills Memorial Gardens.



Gandy

Gandy, a native of Belzoni, had been a pastor throughout the state and pastored at First Church, Kosciusko; First Church, Bruce; West Ellisville Church; and South 28th Avenue Church, Hattiesburg. Before his retirement, he was director of missions at Alcorn Baptist Association. He previously served as a trustee at Mississippi College and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. He had also been president of the Pastor's Conference.

Survivors include: wife, JoAnn; daughters, Julie Ferguson of Brandon and Sandy Ellard of Kosciusko; brother, Bob Gandy of Brandon; and four grandchildren.

First Church, Clara, licensed Philip Chaddrick (Chad) Carney to the ministry. He is available for supply and/or a full time ministry. Carney can be reached at (601) 735-1678. Pictured (from left) are Mitchell Smith, pastor; Carney; and his father, Mack Carney.



Smith, C. Carney, and M. Carney

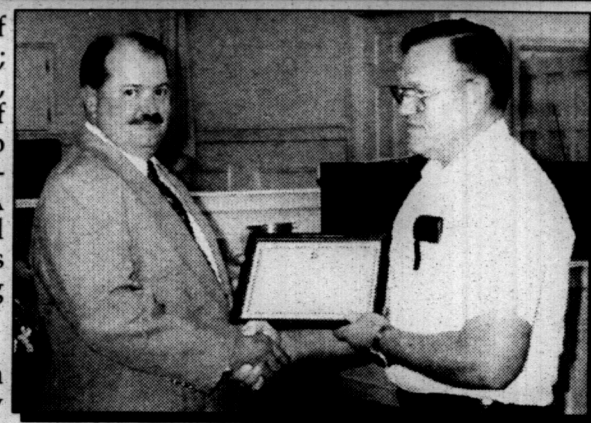
Jason Sebren was ordained to the ministry by First Church, Starkville, on Aug. 1. He is the youth director of Chester Church, Ackerman. Participating in the services were Lloyd R. Humphrey, pastor of First Church; Phillip



Sebren

Cooper, pastor of Chester Church; and Tom Daniel, youth director of First Church, who preached the ordination sermon. A reception was held for Sebren and his family following the service.

Mike Blanton (left) is a newly ordained deacon at Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City. Pictured with Blanton is Jim Liebold, chairman of deacons.



Blanton and Liebold

Allen Johnston (left) is a newly ordained deacon at Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City. Pictured with Johnston is Jim Liebold, chairman of deacons.



Johnston and Liebold

HOMECOMINGS

Ruleville, Ruleville: Sept. 26; worship, 10:30 a.m. with lunch served afterward; time of testimonies, singing, and fellowship will follow; Guy Reedy, speaker; David Young, music; Higdon Herrington, pastor.

Rocky Point, Carthage: Sept. 26; 11 a.m.; Lavon Moore, Kosciusko, guest speaker; covered dish lunch in fellowship hall at noon; afternoon singing; New Vision, Philadelphia, guest singers; William Wright, pastor.

Beulah, Lexington: Sept. 26; praise service, 9:45 a.m.; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Chaplain Thomas E. Killgore, Columbia, S.C., former pastor; dedication of new education building/fellowship hall immediately following morning worship; dinner in new fellowship hall; afternoon singing featuring Jennings family from Yazoo County; Douglas L. Lawson, pastor.

Mt. Vernon, West: Oct. 17; dinner on the grounds; H. C. Adams, preaching; Steven Green, music.

**Mr. and Mrs.
W.D. Covington**
Married 50 years
August 28, 1999
Congratulations!!

Mt. Vernon, Newton: Oct. 17; William Boulton, Baker, La., morning message; lunch will be served; 1:30 p.m. service with a gospel singing by the Hedgepeths; Steve Pouncey, pastor; Merrill Cassel, music director.

First, Stonewall: Sept. 26; services, 10 a.m.; Sollie Smith, guest speaker; dinner in fellowship hall, noon; 1 p.m., singing; Brad Jones family, Meridian, guest singers; Albert McMullen and Jerry Doggett, afternoon speakers; Mike Powell, pastor.

Trinity, Vicksburg: Oct. 3; 10:45 a.m., worship; Howard D. Smith, former pastor who served at time of church's move to present location, guest speaker; dinner on grounds at noon; Mickey Bounds, pastor.

Antioch, Union: Sept. 26; 11 a.m.; noon meal in fellowship hall; Albert McMullen, Stonewall, guest speaker; Hedgepeths from Union, 1:30 p.m. singing; James Young, pastor.

Belden, Belden: Sept. 26; services, 8:30 a.m. and 10:30

a.m., followed by lunch; the Landmark's Quartet will be performing at 7 p.m.; Donald Baggett, pastor.

Weathersby, Mendenhall: Oct. 3; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship and singing, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch; afternoon fellowship; Foy Killingsworth, pastor.

Briarwood, Meridian: Oct. 17; 30th anniversary will be celebrated with a "Gaither Style" singing and dinner on the grounds, 10:30 a.m.; covered dish at noon; David Chambers, pastor.



28th ANNUAL CHURCH MEDIA CONFERENCE

October 1-2, 1999

First Baptist Church, Brookhaven

Topics Include:

- ◆ Getting Started: I'm New; What Do I Need To Know?
- ◆ Classify Using Dewey
- ◆ Preserving Your Church's History
- ◆ Promotion Design-Visual
- ◆ CML Administration: Getting the Work Done
- ◆ Associational Media Ministry

Conference Leaders:

- ◆ Beth Andrews
Arlington, Tex.
- ◆ Sandra Fitts
Corinth, Miss.
- ◆ Kathy Sylvest
New Orleans, La.
- ◆ Bill Jones
Huntsville, Ala.
- ◆ Hope Winter
Ruston, La.
- ◆ Faye Miller
Sumrall, Miss.

Registration fee is \$12.50 per person and includes lunch, dinner, and registration packet. Make checks payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and mail to: Broadcast Services/CML, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. For more information about the conference, call Broadcast Services/CML at 292-3378.



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THANKS FOR PACKETS

Editor:

We have received hygiene packets that have been gladly received from seafarers. They have been sent from Girls in Action groups who know of our work. They are always given by me, the director of the center.

When we give them, we always give them, sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. We also let the men know who they come from and for what purpose. Thank you.

Charles Corey, Ex. Director
Center for International
Seamen & Truckers
Gulfport

SEEKING NURSE ALUMNI

Editor:

The Alumni Association of the Mississippi Baptist Hospital Gilfoyl School of Nursing is looking for the addresses of all its alumni. Plans are being made for a grand reunion on Aug. 5, 2000.

Anyone knowing the current address of a member of a grad-

uating class of the school of nursing is urged to contact secretary-treasurer Joan Pipkin at nelpi@prodgy.net. Information may be mailed or called to membership chairman Wanda Winstead, 550 Spryfield Road, Jackson, MS 39212 or call (601) 373-2606.

Wanda Winstead
Jackson

JONES WILL BE MISSED

Editor:

I among many in Mississippi will miss Paul Jones. I knew him as a professor in a Christian ethics class, as a leader in the Christian Action Commission, and as a Christian gentleman.

I heard his passionate pleas at our state conventions and from pulpits within our state. When I would call or visit his office I was always received graciously and when in his presence I was made to feel my needs were important and that I too was important. I had the special privilege of visiting in

his home with fellow members of our ethics class, and while there was made to feel at home. Wherever I met Paul Jones I knew him to be a man of ethical and moral character.

He led Mississippi Baptists brilliantly, boldly, and bravely. When he faced the fires and storms of criticism he courageously held the rudder of our ship true to course using the Word as his compass. His leadership will be missed.

Some may wish him luck in every new endeavor. Not I! Luck implies chance; Paul Jones does not believe in chance at a table or in life. I wish him Godspeed and rich blessings from our Lord and our King.

I know that wherever he may go and whatever he may do, that Paul Jones will continue to do the kingdom's work and speak out against immorality and injustice and to speak up for the downtrodden.

David MacIsaac, pastor
Lawn Haven Church, Laurel

MINISTER SOUGHT

Editor:

We are seeking a minister of youth and assistant to the pastor for an active vibrant, God-centered congregation searching for new ways to minister to the community and to each other. This is a full-time position with housing provided.

For more information, call (573) 581-4190. Mail resumes to: First Baptist Church, 600 E. Promenade, Mexico, MO 65265, or e-mail: fbcsecre@maain.missouri.org.

Dianne Darby
Mexico, Mo.

BLESSED BY GIVING

Editor:

One of the special times for me in Sunday School and church is the tithes and offerings time. I rejoiced in the promotion of the Ten Million Dollar Sunday on Aug. 29.

In Clarke Association, our Executive Board voted to designate August 1999 as All Tithe

Month. I write this letter with deep conviction related to giving and want to share the following:

Giving is to be done as an act of worship. (Matt. 5:23-24)

The tithe is God's. (Lev. 27:30)

Don't rob God of offerings — which are above the tithe. (Mal. 3:8)

Return to God one tenth and some offering out of all that is received — gross salary, other income, and any gifts received!

Pass the offering plate in every service to every one, including the choir, pianist, organist, music director, pastor, and nursery workers.

Set up a Mercy Room Fund which would enable a church member to share \$1 with persons who want to give but do not have any funds to give. This way, everyone can give as an act of worship every service.

Prayerfully increase offerings based on some percentage, as the Lord leads year by year.

If all is well related to our offering of ourselves (2 Cor. 8:5) and our substance in God's will, we will truly worship him!

Grady Crowell, director of missions

Clarke Association, Quitman

GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

Editor:

Two weeks ago I traveled to New York City to help my son find housing to attend Manhattan School of Music. While there, we became totally frustrated by the lack of housing. At one appointment 17 individuals fought over 500-square-foot studio apartment, with shared restroom facilities, that rented for \$850 per month.

It was Wednesday, and I was to leave on Friday. My son had no place to go. We simply prayed, "God help us; we are hopeless without you."

We contacted David Dean of the Metro New York Baptist Association. He placed us in contact with the Park Slope Church in Brooklyn. They asked my son to help with music on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. They couldn't pay him but offered a 1,500-square-foot apartment, owned by the church, that was fully furnished. We moved in Friday morning.

God is great! He answers prayer.

In the midst of God's working I experienced a huge burden for the needs in New York City. Our people there are fantastic but they have very real needs. If you would like to help, please contact the Metro New York Baptist Association at (212) 787-7037.

Davis Odom, pastor
Van Winkle Church, Jackson

Correction

In the September 16 issue of the Housetops insert in The Baptist Record, errors and omissions were contained in the list of contributions received by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board from January 1-June 30. Correct gifts for the following churches are:

	COOP PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL
LINCOLN			
Central BC	17,232.16	13,317.25	30,549.41
GOLDEN TRIANGLE			
Faith BC, West Point	1,617.16	2,638.06	4,255.22
Faith BC, Starkville	19,270.00	13,994.00	33,264.00

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The new address is P.O. Box 166, 100 Chestnut Street, Pachuta, MS 39347; or call 1-601-776-0408. Collecting used Bibles to share with the world.

PARADISE LANES: Mississippi's only smoke and alcohol free Bowling Center. Call about Lock-ins, group rates, fund raisers, and leagues. Located at 820 Cooper Road, Jackson, MS, (601) 372-7700.

GROUPS - CALL KELLER'S COUNTRY DORM RESORT, Eureka Springs, Ark, for front seats at The Great Passion Play, plus lodging, recreation, and meals, all for just \$35.00 each! Free information - 501-253-8418.

FOR SALE: 1993 Metrotrans Mini-Bus, 25 passenger - Rear and front A/C - Ford 460 EFT Engine, \$25,000 - Mileage 90,000. Phone 601-763-7571.

FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME — Tallahassee needs a husband-wife team to be primary residential staff for the girls home. Excellent salary/benefits. Work for 2 weeks on duty, 1 week off. Come minister in the lives of children! Call Pam at 1-850-878-1458.

HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, Meridian. Design, Fabrication, Repair. Fax illustrations to (601) 483-7958 or call 1-800-368-2705.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, is seeking a minister of music/worship to lead a fully developed music ministry. Calvary is located adjacent to the University of Alabama. Responsibilities include adult, college, and youth music and supervision of children's music. Please send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 1121 Paul W. Bryant Dr., Tuscaloosa, AL 35401. (205) 758-0495. Calvary@dbtech.net.

YOUTH GROUPS NEEDED: pre-packaged (most meals, lodging, assignment) mission trips in 11 US cities and Toronto. NAMB endorsed. For more info, call Youth on Mission, 1-800-299-0385; www.yom.org.

MINISTER OF WORSHIP - Glasgow Baptist Church is seeking a Minister of Worship, 400 worship attendance in two worship services. \$40,000 - \$45,000 package range depending on qualifications. The successful candidate has strong musical skills, broad experiences in worship and is currently part of a vital ministry. Send resume to: Worship Search Committee, Glasgow Baptist Church, P.O. Box 489, Glasgow, KY 42142; www.glasgowbaptist.com.

MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Send resume to: Music Search Committee, c/o Eastwood Baptist Church, P.O. Box 466, Indianola, MS 38751. Call 601-887-4404.

NEW PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking a youth director. Send resume c/o Amy Allen, 7080 Hwy 28 West, Hazlehurst, MS 39083; or call 601-277-3129.

PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Ideal for bi-vocational or student. Send resume to Music Search Committee, Lake Como Baptist Church, Box 969, Bay Springs, MS 39422.

PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH. Send resume to Search Committee, c/o First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 179, Charleston, MS 38921. Call 662-647-5558.

PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH. New Zion Baptist Church, 12023 New Zion Rd., Crystal Springs, MS 39059.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

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Parkses honored for service

Mississippi Baptists will honor Keith and Helen Jean Parks for their 45 years of Baptist missions service during a series of meetings in Jackson and Hattiesburg scheduled Oct. 8-10.

Keith Parks, now living in Dallas, Texas, retired recently after six years as global missions coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF), based in Atlanta.



K. Parks

In 1992, Parks, then 65, retired after 12 years as president of the Foreign Mission Board (now International Mission Board) of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), based in Richmond, Va.

The Parkses will be recognized during a reception at Northminster Church, Jackson, at 7 p.m. on Oct. 8. Words of appreciation for their contributions to world missions will be given by Mississippi Baptist leaders and by active and retired Baptist missionaries. The church is located at 3955 Ridgewood Road in Jackson.

Parks will also be speaking on Oct. 9 during the annual state assembly of CBF of Mississippi, meeting at Calvary Church, 1300 West Capitol, Jackson. He will lead the Sunday morning worship service at Calvary Church in Hattiesburg on Oct. 10. The church is located at 3139 Oak Grove Road. The Parkses were Southern Baptist missionaries to Indonesia for 14 years from 1954-68. He later was area director for Baptist missions work in Southeast Asia, and director of the Mission Support Division for the SBC Foreign Mission Board for four years.

Charles Wade nominated as BGCT executive

DALLAS (BP) — Charles Wade, immediate past president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, will be nominated as the BGCT's executive director during a Sept. 28 meeting of the state convention's executive board.

Wade, 58, has been pastor of First Baptist Church, Arlington, Texas, 23 years. If elected, he will succeed William M. Pinson Jr., who retires Jan. 31, 2000.

The 18-member BGCT executive director search committee met in Dallas on Sept.

14, with members voting overwhelmingly to nominate Wade, reported chairman Bill Brian, an Amarillo attorney.

In August, the search committee selected Wade as one of two finalists for nomination as BGCT executive director. The committee initially nominated Phil Lineberger, pastor of Williams Trace Baptist Church in Sugar Land. Soon after that announcement, however, Lineberger withdrew from nomination, saying he could not gain any sense of peace that it

was God's will for him.

Brian noted the committee previously had affirmed both Wade and Lineberger, saying, "The committee and Dr. Wade both believe that Dr. Wade's sense of call in the matter was confirmed by this chain of events. One committee member observed, 'We have discovered God's choice in Dr. Wade.'"

Wade "brings an extraordinary blend of experience, people skills and vision that equip him for the task," Brian said. "He is a man of vision. He told the committee that he would lead Texas Baptists to 'dream a bigger dream,' noting that success depends on the vitality of the vision and the blessings of God."

"Dr. Wade told the committee that he would try to build unity among Texas Baptists around our sense of mission and obedience to God's call, saying, 'All who want to work to achieve the mission will be welcomed at the table.'"

Wade was among the organizers of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a denomination-like organization formed in 1991.

Wade entered the gospel ministry at age 15. Before coming to Arlington, he served several churches in Oklahoma as well as Italy, Texas, and Baumholder, Germany.

He is an Oklahoma Baptist University graduate and earned masters and doctoral degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

Wade and his wife, Rosemary, have one son, Mark; three daughters, Roshelle, Karee, and Mary Robin; and seven grandchildren.

Lamar Christian School dedicates new elementary building

The Lamar Christian School dedicated the first of a three-phase building project Aug. 22. The school is the only association-owned and -operated Christian School in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Ninety-seven students opened the first year of operation last August (1998) as the school held classes for grades K-4 and grade 8 in Good Hope Church, Purvis.

The school will add a grade each year as the commitment to parents is that a student never has to leave the school in order to graduate from high school. The second phase of a \$2,000,000 project to begin in the near future will be a gymnasium, cafeteria, office suite, conference room, and choral and band rooms all under one roof.

The school uses the A Beka Book Christian Curriculum. All teachers are certified and licensed by the Mississippi State Department of Education and the Mississippi Private School Association. Teachers attend Pensacola Christian College where the curriculum is published for an intense week of study and instruction each year prior to the opening of school, followed by a two day seminar in the fall of the year at Pensacola Christian Academy.

The school is located two miles north of Purvis just off Hwy 589, and welcomes anyone who would like to make a visit. Louis Nicolosi, a former high school band director, former high school principal, former minister of music, and former pastor of First Church, Purvis, is the School Administrator. That telephone number is (601) 794-0016.

Husband-wife team picked to lead CBF missions

ATLANTA (ABP) — Veteran missionaries Gary and Barbara Baldrige will be nominated to lead the global missions program of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF).

If elected, the couple will serve as co-coordinators of the Fellowship's 125-person missionary force and the Atlanta-based missions staff.

Barbara Baldrige will be the first woman to fill a top administrative position in the Fellowship. The couple will share equally in the coordinator's duties, said Sanford Smith of Greensboro, N.C., chair of the search committee.

"This is kind of coloring outside the lines as far as management is concerned," Smith said. "But we think they have the skills that will make it work. We feel comfortable with it."

The Baldriges are 20-year missions veterans. They were appointed as missionaries of the Foreign Mission Board (FMB) (now the International Mission Board) in 1978, serving first in Zambia. In 1985, they launched Baptist mission work on the French island of La Reunion in the Indian Ocean, starting two churches.

They spent three years coordinating mission strategy for the Azerbaijani people of the former Soviet Union and Iran. Gary Baldrige later served as the FMB's London-based associate director supervising 100 missionaries serving in "World A" countries of the Middle

East, Central Asia, North Africa and parts of Europe.

The Baldriges resigned from the Foreign Mission Board in 1994 and returned to their native Houston, where Gary

managed a book store until joining the CBF missions staff in 1996.

The Baldriges have three children: Lydia, 19, a student at Rice University; Erin, 17, a

high-school senior; and Micah, 15, a sophomore.

The six-member search committee considered about 35 nominees in making their selection, Smith said.



Ron Munro, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

LifeAnswers

My 32-year-old moderately retarded son has never been baptized. He functions on the level of about a nine-year-old, which would make him "accountable," but he has no idea of what sin is. I want him to be safe.

In chapter nine of the book of John, the disciples ask Jesus about the sin that produced a blind man. Jesus responded in verse three, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life." The same applies to you and your son. Your son is safe in that you have planted the seeds in this child's life. Now let the Holy Spirit work. The purpose of salvation is the repentance of turning from one's sin. If your son does not know about sin, he is not accountable just as a child is

not accountable until he understands sin and how to turn from sin. His safety is in the Lord's hands. You are leading him and setting the right example. Don't stop. God understands the heart and loves those he created. Let your son show the light of God to those with whom he comes into contact, and watch how God is glorified through him.

In replying to the woman who had received a promotion that boosted her salary over her husband's salary, your reply was absurd in asking her to ask her husband, "I'm wondering if I should even take the promotion." You are writing as if only the man was involved here. Your advice could have been that this woman should let her husband know that she has feelings and she has the

right to compensation for a job well done without resentment from him. Her husband is not the only one to be considered here. He should be congratulating her on her promotion and doing everything possible to help relieve some of the stress she might have in a new job, and showing support of her. How unfair of you to assume that this woman's feelings are not important.

The letter writer wanted to know how to deal with her husband; the advice given was not intended to disregard her feelings. There are two sides to this, and the couple must weigh both sides. Conflict like this allows a couple to understand each other and find ways to better handle the difficulties that arise, no matter what the situation may be. Thanks for writing.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

LIFE AND WORK

Jesus is superior to angels

Hebrews 1:3-9, 13; 2:2-3, 9-10, 14-16

By Tom Atwood



Atwood

The God we know in Jesus Christ is not a distant and detached deity. He is a transcendent Creator who has existence apart from his creation but is immanently and intimately involved in his world. One of the means through which God works his will in his world is the ministry of angels.

Though angels are to be acknowledged, they are never to be worshiped. Angels are not divine, do not have absolute authority, and have never experienced being human. Only Jesus Christ has the credentials to be our mediator, Savior, and source of spiritual life. The introductory theme of the book of Hebrews is the superiority of

Jesus Christ — even superior to angels.

Jesus is God's Son; angels worship him (1:3-6). In contrast to the angels, Jesus is

God's Son. Note the extravagant language employed to communicate his glory, his deity, his rule, his power, his sacrifice, and his exaltation. At the "right hand of the Majesty in heaven (v.3)," Jesus Christ receives the worship of angels because he is superior to them.

Verse 6 points to the incarnation by referring to Jesus as God's "first-born into the world." Because he became flesh to accomplish God's redemption, the writer of Hebrews enjoins, "Let all the angels worship him." In com-

ing to Jesus, one comes to God. The focus of the Christian is upon this creator and savior and never upon one of his creatures — even an angel. Angels exist submissive and subservient to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. To focus on another, other than the exalted Son, is idolatry.

Jesus is sovereign; angels serve him (1:7-9, 13). Jesus Christ sits "at the right hand of majesty in heaven" (v. 3b). The right side of the throne is occupied by the one who has authority. It is the position of prerogative, prominence, pre-eminence, and power. Murray Harris notes that "To sit at God's right hand is to acquire unlimited power and unparalleled glory" (From Grave to Glory, p. 174).

Angels are servants of Christ. God has never invited angels to sit at his right hand. Jesus, however, is God incarnated, crucified, resurrected,

and exalted. He alone rules from the throne of God (Ephesians 1:19-23) and angels are under his authority.

We should never give to angels the glory that belongs to God alone in Jesus Christ. He holds the power in all things — even eternal life (Revelation 1:18). The angels, like the saints, bow the knee before him. Paul said that every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Jesus is Savior; angels are messengers (2:2-3, 9-10, 14-16). All through the scriptures, angels are portrayed as messengers and deliverers of God's revelation of himself and his will. "Angel" in the original language simply means messenger (Arndt and Gingrich, p.7). The introductory theme of Hebrews is that, in days past, God communicated to humans through messengers, human and angelic, but has now come himself. Jesus took on humani-

ty and became God's message. In his incarnation Jesus humbled himself (Philippians 2:6-7) and became lower than the angels (v. 9a). Because of his saving work on the cross and in the resurrection, Jesus is "now crowned with glory and honor" (v. 9b).

His victory is extended to those who place their faith in him. This saving help is never extended to angels, but only to humans. Because Jesus shares our human nature with us, people are the focus of his salvation. Angels are God's messengers but they have no direct sense of what it means to be human. Because Jesus was both God and man, he alone is qualified to be our Savior. He died, not for angels (v.16), but for humans. Thus, Jesus Christ is the focus of our faith, the source of our joy, the agent of our salvation, and the object of our worship.

Atwood is pastor of First Church, Oxford.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Holiness in relationships

Leviticus 17:1-21:24

By Sylvia Fleming



Fleming

"I am the Lord your God" was a constant reminder to the Israelites that he was the lawmaker, not they, not the Egyptians from which they had come, and not the Canaanites — the people of the land to which they were brought. God is the lawmaker. He will decide the laws and statutes of his people.

God has set forth a law of morality, universal both in time and place, for all his people to obey. These laws were good 14 centuries B.C. and they will continue to be good in 2000 A.D. They were good in Canaan and they are still just as good in the United States of America.

God did not set forth laws of sexuality to keep something "good" from mankind, but he did set those laws forth to protect man and woman. God in his omniscience knew the results of defiling a marriage bed; he knew the emotional devastation it would cause not only to the defiled, but also the defiler. God knew the many innocent parties who would be hurt; consequently, to prevent the turmoil, God forbade it.

The Israelites were specifically warned against allowing their children to "pass through the fire to Molech" (Leviticus 19:21); however, that is exactly what

they would later do. Second Kings 17:17 says, "And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire...." Molech, the false god of the Ammonites, seems to have been built with outstretched arms and an open belly. In that open belly, they built fires of extreme temperatures and then would place their children into the open arms of the idol to be roasted as any ordinary piece of meat.

God commands: "Whosoever...giveth any of his [children] unto Molech...shall surely be put to death..." (Leviticus 20:2). Additionally, God would later use the Assyrians to punish the nation for their disobedience.

Not only did God tell the Israelites to avoid immorality, but he also told them to refrain from acts of irreverence, particularly when dealing with their parents. God demanded and

still demands his people to stand out as a peculiar people from their surroundings. Again, God said, "Ye shall be holy; for I, the Lord your God, am holy" (Leviticus 19:2). Therefore, God's holiness is to form the definition of his people's lives, not only when dealing with people around them, but also in the home.

When a child is taught to respect his parents at home, then that child will more likely respect others outside the home, but most importantly will also come to know and love the will of God. In knowing and loving God and his will, then the child possesses all he needs to flee from false gods and doctrines, for the one true God provides wisdom and discernment for all who recognize him as God, Father, Lord, and his All in All.

Apparently, human nature has not changed over the course of several thousand

years. God warned both the Israelites and his children of the New Testament against bearing tales. God tells his people to maintain respect for others and not to behave in an injurious manner. Whether it is emotional, spiritual or bodily injury that one's behavior causes, God does not approve of it. He demands righteous actions on the part of his people. God also demands love from his people.

Even when rebuking a sinful brother, it must be done in love. It is impossible for a child of God to bear a grudge against another and love him at the same time. To "love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself" (Luke 10:27) is humanly impossible; it must be done through the working of the Holy Spirit.

Fleming is a member of Bond Church, Neshoba Association.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Called to obedience

Exodus 40:1-9; Leviticus 26:2-6, 11-13

By Jerry L. Smith



Smith

I have had the privilege of serving different types of congregations during my ministry. Some of these congregations met in a traditional sanctuary encased by red brick. One met in a metal building, and still another met in a school cafeteria.

All of these experiences have made me appreciate different places of worship. Even though I am more comfortable in a worship center where the congregation sits in pews, that is not to say that I can't worship in a place where the lunch menu is posted by the front door.

In this week's lesson, God instructed Moses to erect a tent to be used as a "sanctuary." In

other words, a place to come and allow your life to intersect with the divine.

Do you see your church sanctuary in this way? Do you see a sanctuary as a place where the unholy is confronted with the holy; a place where the potter meets with the clay and the Creator meets with the created? As you consider the answers to these questions, notice what God had to say about his sanctuary.

Special place (Ex. 40:1-9). God announced that his sanctuary is a special place — a place to experience his presence.

One summer during college, I lived on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and rented out sailboats

on the beach. Each evening after the boats were tied up and the sails put away, I walked to a nearby church that was left unlocked so members (and beachbums) could come and pray.

In the quietness of that sanctuary, I prayed for a friend of mine that had recently been diagnosed with a brain tumor. Though I never attended a formal service at this church, or even met the minister, I'll always remember how near I felt to God each evening as I prayed for my friend, Micheal. I don't know if it was the dim lights or the medieval architecture that seemingly accelerated my proximity to God. All I know is that I met God there as I interceded for my friend.

You can interact with God anywhere, but sometimes, you feel closer to God in a church sanctuary. Why do you suppose that is? I think it is because

God anoints his sanctuary as a special place.

That's not to say that God does not use other places to touch our lives like retreat centers, prayer rooms, or nature walks. What is important in all of these places is that God is there. When is the last time you visited such a special place?

Specific blessings (Lev. 26:2-6). God also said his sanctuary was a place to receive specific blessings. For this, you need to be present.

Surprisingly, some people have grown disillusioned towards the faith by attending church services. They see the sanctuary used on Sunday morning as a place to parade the latest fashions, cultivate business contacts, or catch up on the latest gossip. I'll admit that I have experienced some of the same feelings of disillusionment, but I have realized that I am not there for them, but for him!

In his sanctuary, you experi-

ence his presence, receive his encouragement, develop the character that is needed to combat the bastion of worldliness that afflicts our culture. To me, his presence, encouragement, and strength are all blessings that God bestows through the act of worship.

Don't let your modest attire, GED, or disappointment with people prevent you from experiencing his blessings. Find a sanctuary this Sunday.

Striking promise (Lev. 26:11-13). God has promised that he will meet you in his sanctuary. He has promised that his voice will be intelligible, his touch comforting, and his presence felt.

There is no need to fear the failures of the week. Through confession, they'll be forgotten. You need, whether you realize it or not, what God has to offer in his sanctuary. He'll be there this weekend. Will you?

Smith is pastor of First Church, Summit.

LifeWay trustees approve record budget

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Trustees of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention adopted a record \$362,668,000 operating budget for the 1999-2000 fiscal year and learned of anticipated options for electronic ministry.

Ted Warren, LifeWay chief operating officer and executive vice-president, told trustees meeting Sept. 13-14 at Ridgecrest that the agency's budget includes planned investments in electronic ministry initiatives, increased work in international distribution of ministry resources, enhanced information systems, investments in LifeWay's Wounded Ministers initiative,

and the agency's work in strategic focus cities in cooperation with the North American Mission Board.

In addition, a fixed and intangible asset budget of \$29.9 million was approved, including \$16.9 million for building projects and related equipment approved by trustees in their February 1999 meeting.

Projected revenue for the agency's 1998-99 fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30, is \$331,353,000. The anticipated total is \$22,668,000 or 6.4% below budget, but \$16,193,000 or 5.2% above last year's actual revenue of \$315,160,000. Funds Provided from Operations, money available for reinvestment in ministry expansion after all expenses have been paid, is projected at 4.6%, compared with a budgeted 4.3%.

Warren also reported on Internet-related initiatives.

"The world is there in increasing numbers," he said. "It is where the battle for the eyes, minds, hearts and souls of all generations is now being waged. The Internet is dominated by non-Christian, unwholesome content, which we must challenge. It provides the most dynamic and efficient method for disseminating the gospel around the world."

A few of the projects in process and under study, Warren said, include a digital music delivery system, LifeWay home page enhancements and lifewaystores.com enhancements.

He said a new Sunday School for a New Century site, www.lifewaysundayschool.com, will become a prototype for the future of LifeWay's Internet presence. It will include features such as sample lessons, online training, streaming video, online resources, user registration, event promotion and registration, age-group ministry forums, church staff forums, bulletin boards, and chat rooms.

Trustees affirmed a recommendation to close the Albuquerque, N.M., LifeWay Christian Store Dec. 31, 1999, due to inability to attain growth sufficient to meet ministry and business objectives. At the same time, the

LifeWay store at Glorieta (N.M.), a LifeWay Conference Center, will be converted to a full-service store with a toll-free number to serve all of New Mexico. In other reports:

● Mike Arrington, vice-president of the corporate affairs division said an ongoing study is expected to result in recommendations to LifeWay trustees in their February 2000 meeting to make the best use of LifeWay's conference center property and facilities in the new century.

● Mike Miller, director of the church leadership group of LifeWay Church Resources, said Genevox Music products, graded choir materials, Christian schools curriculum, and the newly released "How Much Is Enough?" stewardship resource have experienced high demand.

● Roy Edgemon, director of the discipleship and family group of LifeWay Church Resources, said the division, in partnership with Tyndale Publishers, will release a series of age-graded studies "How Now Shall We Live?" by popular author and speaker Chuck Colson.

● Bill Taylor, director of the Sunday School group of LifeWay Church Resources, said Sunday School for a New Century materials to be released in Fall 2000 will be built on the strategic principles of foundational evangelism, foundational discipleship, family responsibility, spiritual transformation, and biblical leadership. Curriculum characteristics will support biblical authority, the Kingdom of God, the biblical worldview, the Sunday School strategy and teaching for transformation.

● Mark Scott, president of LifeWay Christian Stores, said Hispanic product sections were established in 50 LifeWay Christian Stores in 1998-99.

● Officials of Broadman & Holman Publishers said, in addition to the Bible translation under development, the division is exploring partnerships with amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com, among other organizations, to make its resources, including books, gifts, and church supplies, available to a wider audience.

Ridgecrest hosts workmen



Power trucks from surrounding states use the LifeWay Conference Center at Ridgecrest, N.C., as a staging area before deploying to the coast of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. The LifeWay Conference center is going to house up to 700 power workmen and feed up to 1,700 of these workmen before they leave for the disaster area. (BP photo by Kelly Reed)

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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B KCS JXYP SPJ, YGCY
DBLTMBKT OPS KGCD
HT BX GTCZTX PZTF PXT
KBXXTF YGCY FTUTXY-
TYG, EPFT YGCX PZTF
XBXTYS CXR XBXT OIKY
UTFKPK, MGBAG XTTR
XP FTUTXYCXAT.

DJLT IBIYTTX: KTZTX

Clue: J = U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Sixteen: Sixteen.

Ridgecrest Chapel ground breaking celebrated

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Approximately 150 people gathered at Ridgecrest, a LifeWay Conference Center, Sept. 13 for a ground breaking ceremony for Rutland Chapel, a 300-seat worship facility with fellowship and conference space.

Among guests for the event were employees of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention from its Ridgecrest, Nashville, Tenn., and Glorieta, N.M., locations; and LifeWay trustees and their spouses. Representing the Rutland Family Foundation, which is providing a \$1 million gift for the chapel, were Cherry and Robert Rutland and Linda and Guy Rutland. The Rutlands are members of First Baptist Church Covington, Ga.

The two-story facility will include a first-floor chapel with a second floor including space for seminars and conferences. The 10,500 square-foot building, designed by LifeWay architect Davis Byrd, features architecture echoing the style of traditional small churches across the mountains and features a reflecting pool adjacent to it.

The facility will be of materi-

als native to the area, along with extensive use of glass to permit persons to experience the natural wooded setting, according to Byrd, director of LifeWay's church architecture department.

The Rutland family operates Decatur, Ga.-based Allied Holdings, Inc., a conglomerate of companies involved in transportation of automobiles from factories.

Mike Arrington, vice-president of LifeWay's corporate affairs division, which includes Ridgecrest, said the ceremony served also "to celebrate God's goodness and the ministry of Ridgecrest."

Observing that last year approximately 55,000 people came to Ridgecrest, and 5,200 of those had made spiritual decisions during their visits, LifeWay President James T. Draper Jr. reminded guests "of the value of these grounds ... where God can speak to people in a very special way."

Robert Rutland said he and his brother had begun a relationship with Ridgecrest in 1946 when their father started bringing them to the center.

"During our visits here, Guy

and I both felt the call to become Christian businessmen," he reflected. "The Lord has really blessed us, and we feel when much is given, much is required."



BREAKING GROUND — Participants in the ground breaking ceremony for Rutland Chapel at Ridgecrest included (from left) Mike Arrington, G.W. Lankford, Ted Warren, officers at LifeWay Christian Resources; Guy and Robert Rutland from Decatur, GA.; Ken Speakman of Nashville, TN., chairman of the board of trustees; and James T. Draper Jr., president of LifeWay Christian Resources. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)